

MMA Testimony on SCR 6 and SR 10

By: Andrew J. Such, Director of Environment and Regulatory Affairs
Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee
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Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and committee members.

My name is Andy Such, I am the Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs for the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

MMA represents over 2,500 member manufacturers who proudly make things here in Michigan and are a part of the largest sector of Michigan's economy. Although we've lost tens of thousands of jobs over the past decade, manufacturers still directly employ about 500,000 people in our state. That's almost half a million Michigan families who rely on a manufacturing to provide for their well being.

On behalf of that manufacturing community, MMA is here to support the approval of Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 and Senate Resolution 10 asking congress to stop the EPA from unilaterally imposing onerous, job killing regulations that will attempt to regulate greenhouse gasses without a vote of Congress.

It's ironic, that while the EPA is pushing these new regulations on a fast track, the President in his major jobs address, earlier this week, professed wanting to help business, saying...

"Now is the time to invest in America. And if there is a reason that you don't share my confidence, if there is a reason that you don't believe that this is the time to get off the sidelines, to hire and to invest, I want to know about it. I want to fix it."

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Well, I would say to the President, according to MMA members, these onerous capricious EPA regulations dealing with carbon emissions are just one of the barriers to business hiring and investing and must be fixed.... Fewer regulations are just one of the ways to help our Michigan manufacturers compete globally

The timing of this aggressive effort by the EPA further challenges permitting and compliance for manufacturers. In fact, we are referring to this as a "train wreck" because of the numerous and overlapping requirements and because of the potentially devastating consequences this regulatory activity will have on Michigan's already fragile economy.

Some of those you may hear from in opposition to this resolution might try to leave you with the impression that we manufacturers are not regulated enough in the area of air emissions and are incapable of responsible environmental stewardship.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Let me assure you, manufacturing is highly regulated when it comes to emissions and everything we do requires a permit. The proposed regulations, mentioned in these resolutions, are over and above what we are already doing and clearly extend the power of the EPA beyond where it was intended.

In addition to costing our companies more, the financial ramifications to the DEQ budget could be devastating. The Air Quality Division of the DEQ says they haven't run the workload numbers, but have serious concerns the number of new permits and their complexity could be very time consuming and expensive.

Regulations of this scope and economic impact should require congressional approval and oversight.

I won't recite the language of the resolutions to you. They are clear and understandable.

What we need now is action on these resolutions to support our Michigan Congressional delegation, who are providing real leadership on this issue and let the entire Congress and the President know how concerned the Michigan Legislature is about this potential regulatory and economic "Train Wreck"

Thank you and I'll be glad to take any questions...